

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 RSC-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 SWF-02 DRC-01 CIEP-02 SP-03 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9607

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, ET

SUBJ: COFFEE -- CURRENT ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ADDIS A-110, MAY 13, 1974

1. ACCORDING IEG NATIONAL COFFEE BOARD MANAGER ASNAKE GETACHEW, THIS PAST YEAR'S COFFEE PRODUCTION IS OFF AT LEAST 40 PERCENT DUE TO COMBINED EFFECT OF LOW POINT IN 5-YEAR COFFEE GROWING CYCLE, DROUGHT, AND COFFEE BERRY DISEASE. HE CONTINUED THAT PROSPECTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S CROP ARE MORE FAVORABLE PROVIDED COFFEE BERRY DISEASE DOES NOT RAVAGE PRESENTLY FLOWERING BUSHES. HE PLANS TO UNDERTAKE INSPECTION TOUR NEXT WEEK IN THIS REGARD.

2. WITH REGARD TO MARKETING, ASNAKE SAID FARMERS ARE STORING PRODUCTION IN MAJOR COLLECTION CENTERS IN HOPES OF PRICE INCREASES. ALTHOUGH CURRENT PRICES REMAIN FAVORABLE, EXPECTATIONS BASED ON PREVIOUS HIGHER PRICES CONTINUE TO CONDITION BEHAVIOR. ALTHOUGH, IN HIS VIEW, ETHIOPIAN PRODUCERS CAN BE COMPETITIVE EVEN AT US 25 CENT PER POUND, SOME MIDDLEMEN FEEL CAUGHT IN A SQUEEZE BETWEEN THEIR HIGH PURCHASE PRICE AND FALLING NY QUOTATIONS COUPLED WITH INCREASED SHIPPING COSTS.

3. ASNAKE CONCLUDED IN NOTING INCREASED IEG SUPPORT FOR HIS LONG-URGED POLICY THAT NATIONAL MARKETING BOARD BE ESTABLISHED TO CONTROL PRICES.

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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